

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-11, 13, 27-28, and 30 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 12, 14-26, 29, and 31-34 have been canceled from the present application. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1, 2, 12, 14-26, 29, and 31-34, and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-11, 13, 27, 28 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten independent claims 3 and 27 in independent form. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 27 and their dependent claims should now be allowed.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 26 for containing an informality. Applicant has amended claim 27 to include the subject matter of claim 26. Therefore, the language of claim 26, now in claim 27, has been amended to “the focus lens is rotated about a shaft fixed to the wall of the lens barrel” as suggested by the Examiner. Consequently, Applicant requests that the objection to the claim be withdrawn.

III. Double Patenting

Claims 1, 2, 26, and 34 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 7,317,487 (hereinafter "Omiya '487") in view of Nomura et al. U.S. Publication No. 2003/0156832. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 26, and 34 from the application. Therefore, the double patenting rejection of claims 1, 2, 26, and 34 is now moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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